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REGIONAL COOPERATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. At the twenty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Conference of Ministers of ECA adopted resolution 710 (XXVI) entitled "Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa", which is submitted to the Council at its current session for action (see E/1991/97, para. 4). In that resolution, the Conference of Ministers recommends for adoption the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000).

2. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and existing African regional and subregional economic groups, as well as relevant United Nations agencies, to undertake the necessary preparatory arrangements for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

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3. The Secretary-General wishes to state the following:

(a) The Conference of Ministers of ECA met and adopted resolution 710 (XXVI) in May 1991. At that time the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 had already been prepared for submission to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) The resolution was adopted by the Conference of Ministers on the understanding that its programme budget implications would be elaborated by the Technical Committee for the Decade, scheduled to meet thereafter. Owing to circumstances prevailing in Addis Ababa, the secretariat of ECA was not in a position to elaborate the implications of the programme adopted by the Technical Committee. Therefore, resolution 710 (XXVI) was not accompanied by a statement of programme budget implications;

(c) In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, section 23, Economic Commission for Africa, includes subprogramme 19, Transport and communications. The proposed activities and resources under this subprogramme are related and will contribute to the implementation of the Decade during the forthcoming biennium. It is clear, however, that given the magnitude of the problem addressed and the scope of the objectives of the Decade, such programme activities and resources will not be sufficient to address the relevant provisions of the draft resolution;

(d) The Secretariat is currently working on the precise programme budget implications of the draft resolution. In addition to a precise elaboration of these implications and of their relationship with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the Secretariat, in accordance with the new budgetary process, has to present an alternative to the financing of the proposed activities in case it would not be possible to use the contingency fund.

4. Should the Council decide, in the absence of a statement of programme budget implications, to postpone consideration of this draft resolution, the launching of the Decade would be delayed. Given these circumstances, the Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the draft resolution, on the understanding that a statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in the context of the 1992-1993 revised estimates arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1991.